United States District Court
Southern District Of New York

Herman Kelley,

Plaintiff,

against

Complaint
Jury trial requested

The Universal Music Group, The Island Def Jam Music Group, Island Def Jam Records, Desert Storm Records, Kila Records and John David Jackson p/k/a Fabolous

Defendants,

**Plaintiff** Herman Kelley is doing business at 419 Netherwood Ave Piscataway, New Jersey 08854



**Defendant** The Universal Music Group is doing business at 1755 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10019

**Defendant** The Island Def Jam Music Group/Island Def Jam Records, is doing business at 1755 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10019

**Defendants** Desert Storm/Kila Records is doing business at 1755 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10019

**Defendant** John Davis Jackson p/k/a Fabolous is doing business in c/o Island Def Jam Records 1755 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10019

Plaintiffs, for his complaint, allege the following: jurisdiction is based on U.S.C 1331. and Titles 15 and 17 of the U.S. Code lanham act and Copyright Ad and on the ancillary and pendant jurisdiction of the court.

This action involves two songs titles. Song (1.) "Try To Leave Me If You Can" which was sampled and illegally used within and throughout song (2.) titled "For The Love". Defendant John Jackson pka (Fabolous the rapper) is the recording artist involved in this action. Upon information and belief, The Universal Music Group is the parent company of "Island Def Jam Records or the Island Def Jam Music Group which to plaintiff knowledge umbrellas Desert Storm and Kila /Killa Records, the affiliated companies also involved in wrongfully using plaintiff song "Try To Leave Me If You Can" Note: (Exhibit a.) which shows Def Jam Records and its subsidiary labels Desert Storm and Killa Records as being affiliated record labels. This is again reflected in further exhibits within this complaint

#### First Cause Of Action: Copyright Infringement

- 1. In December of 2012 plaintiff found out that his song "Try To Leave Me If You Can" (herein after referred to as ("Try To Leave Me") was illegally sampled and used within and throughout defendant John Davis Jackson's (hereafter referred to as Fabolous) song titled "For The Love".
- 2. Plaintiff further found out that "For The Love" was included in the Fabolous Soul Tape (2.) Cd, (Exhibit B.) his Soul Collection Cd (Exhibit C.) and his video performance of "For The Love." (Exhibits D). Based on plaintiff research, these products were commercially released on "The Island Def Jam Record" label or one of its subsidiary labels. These releases took place somewhere between November 22, 2012 and May 4th 2013.

- 3. Upon information and belief, defendant Fabulous is primarily under exclusive contract with Island Def Jam Records Exhibit (E) and normally, the terms of an exclusive recording contract, would not allow anyone out side of "Island Def Jam Records" or it's affiliated subsidiary labels, to record and or release any product pertaining to Fabolous.
- 4. Upon information and belief, none of the subject defendants attempted to get a mechanical license clearance from the writer's or the writer's publisher (The Clyde Otis Music Group) to use "Try To Leave Me" within the song "For The Love."
- 5. This legal procedure is clearly explained by Peter S. Shukat, the founder and partner of the New York based entertainment law firm Shukat Arrow Hafer Weber & Herbsman, L.L.P. who personally oversees the business affairs and estates of John Lennon, Bob Moly, Barry White, Miles Davis as well as many of todays contemporary celebrities. Peter Shukats YouTube presentation can be obtained by Googling, "Peter Shukat Sampling licenses".
- Note: § Sampling is a form of copying someone else's music (sound recording and underlying composition)
  - § You will be required to pay a fee and/or royalties and credit (mention) the original writers/ copyright owner from which the sample is taken as a condition of any license.
  - § Sampling will infringe copyright in the music and/or the sound recording, if a 'substantial part' of the original is used without permission. Sample considered 'substantial' by reference to quality rather than length.

Westbound Records and Bridgeport Music v No Limit Films (2004)

the case centered on the song 100 Miles and Runnin, which samples a three-note guitar riff from Get Off Your Ass and Jam by George Clinton and Funkadelic. The song was included in the 1998 movie I Got the Hook Up by No Limit Films In the two-second sample, the guitar pitch has been lowered, and the copied piece was "looped" and extended to 16 beats. The sample appears five times in the new song.

A US federal appeals court ruled that recording artists should licence every musical sample included in their work even minor, edited, unrecognizable snippets of music. The court posed the question "If you cannot pirate the whole sound recording, can you 'lift' or 'sample' something less than the whole?" The Court's answer to this was NO; and the court added "Get a license or do not sample - we do not see this as stifling creativity in any significant way."-

- 7. As mentioned above, the song "For The Love" was (a) included in the CD title "Fabolous Soul Tape 2, (b) Was included in the Fabolous CD title "Soul Collection" and (c) included in a video whereas Fabolous performs "For The Love" (can view from YouTube). As a result of this wrongful act, plaintiff Herman Kelley as writer of "Try To Leave Me" have suffered from being denied Mechanical Royalties, Performance Royalties like radio royalties that are paid by national radio stations akin-to WBLS 107.5 and "Hot 97" 105.7 and their syndicated stations across the country that played "For The Love" heavily during the period 11-22-2012 until around 03/01/13.
- 8. Digital Download royalties, Ringtone royalties, and multiple unspecified sauces of performance income were lost to plaintiff due to defendants failure to obtain a licenses.
- 9. These acts by the defendants have injured plaintiff financially in the past and continues to date, to cause him mental and emotional harm.

Mechanical Royalties: In general, Mechanical Royalties are those royalties derived from actual CD sells from street stores, download sells from various Internet sights like Cd Universe, Best Buy, Amazon and many other venues.

Performance Royalties: As above mentioned are royalties derived from radio stations that play music, Internet websites, Restraints, Nightclubs, Airplanes, Television, Motion pictures and other sauces of performance outlets that expose music to the public for a fee.

- 10. Upon information and believe. Defendants Island Def Jam Records Defendant Fabolous and all other related entities of the defense, has wrongfully and willfully failed to register "Try To Leave Me" with" the performance rights society Broadcast Music Incorporated (B.M.I.) regarding Plaintiff writer credit entitlements and such negligents has and is, depriving him from collecting world wide performance royalties and writer recognition credits for his contribution to subject song "For The Love".
- 11. Plaintiff is a writer and producer of subject song, "Try To Leave Me." and is a party to the copyright registration of "Try To Leave Me" as validated by Exhibit (F and f 1.), the copyright registration and Exhibit (G) a xerox copy of the original physical 45rpm recording of "Try To Leave Me" which the sample used in "For The Love" was sampled from.
- 12. Plaintiff as a writer/producer of the lyrics also formatted the musical arrangement, structured the background arrangement, and performed one of the background parts during the recording production process of "Try To Leave Me" in 1974.

- 13. Upon information and belief defendants are also in violation of Plaintiff Poetic License rights.
- 14. Apparently, defendants wrongfully and willfully acted as though they were the writers of plaintiffs' song by extracting a specific section of it from the original master and in doing so, they made unauthorized alterations that speeded up the tempo, distorted and damaged the musical and vocal characteristics of plaintiffs' song.
- 15. Upon information and belief, it is only the plaintiff, his co-writers, or the writer's publisher that maintain exclusive right under the rule of poetic license to make creative changes in their copyrighted work. Often time's contemporary artist along with their Records labels take advantage of veteran writers and or their publisher, assuming they have decease or have withdrawn from the industry they wrongfully and willfully use their copyrighted work for there on financial gain. It is alleged by plaintiff that this was the Consciousness defendants acted upon in violating plaintiff common law poetic license rights.

#### Third Cause Of Action: Fraudulent Deceit and Conspiring To Swindle

16. According to contrary listings posted on multiple websites whereas some websites posted subject CDs' as a free download, other sites posted subject CDs were for sell. Note: the website listings for free downloads Exhibits (H. h(a) and h (b) and the websites that list subject products for sell Exhibit (I. i (a) and i (b). It is plaintiff

belief that defendants strategy of having free downloads on certain websites and sells of CDs on certain other sites, was purposely done to imply that the Fabolous CDs and Video being use were solely for promotional use, however; based on plaintiff findings, it appears that it was an illusive an deceitful plot used to convience and keep plaintiff from Knowing that products involving his song were generating income. At any rate; none of the defendants, its subsidiary entities, administrative departments and or branches of the defendants, had the right to exploit plaintiff song in any way.

- 17. It is also plaintiff firm belief that Fabolous, in connection with his record label Island Def Jam Records and or their affiliated subsidiary entities, have acquired an account with Google, YouTube and all other websites that air the video titled "For The Love" and offer either sells or free downloads of all the above mentioned products that include plaintiff song "Try To Leave Me." Plaintiff further believe that it is common practice for websites to pay a fee to famous Rapp celebrities like fabulous because they attract business traffic to their websites of which the websites capitalize on from clients who advertise their goods and or services from these sites.
- 18. For instance; the website "Free Music Tapes @ DatPiff.com" posted on 11-22-2012 that the Fabolous Soul Tape 2. CD Was viewed 1,856,701 times and was downloaded 791,897 times from their website which means that the artist fabulous attracted 1,856,701 viewers to that site and those 1,856,701 viewers were exposed to advertisements listed on the site, on the other hand, plaintiff have been swindled

and deprived of any income generated from the exploitation of his song altogether.

Note (Exhibit (J) confirming the amount of views and downloads made.

#### Fourth Cause Of Action: Mental Anguish

- 19. As a result of the wrongs inflected upon plaintiff from 2013 to date, has suffered from feelings of distress, anxiety and depression which interferes with his creative ability and hinders his inspiration to write. These harmful inflictions such as (a) deprivation of writer credits and recognition (b) deprivation of the opportunity to expand his repartition as a writer and (c) and deprivation of not receiving monitorial compensation for his contribution to the song "For The Love."
- 20. These losses are detrimental to plaintiff in that he needs every penny earned from his royalties to supplement his fragile annual retirement income.
- 21. A legal example is the case of the shop, which failed to deliver the bridal gown in time for the wedding-mental anguish flows naturally (along with the bride's tears) from such a breach.
- 22. To no avail, plaintiff's publisher (The Clyde Otis Music Group) after being informed of this infringement, informed plaintiff that they had found out who defendant fabulous' attorney was and had sent him several emails addressing this matter, in order to prevent litigation, however; to date, his attorney has failed to respond and appear to be ignoring our efforts to resolve this issue out side of court. I have personally attempted to contact someone in business affairs at The Island Def Jam Music Group by phone and by physically going to their location at 1755 Broadway

#### 

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true.

Plaintiff (pro-se) litigant

Date 04/22 / 14

# Plaintiff Herman Kelley 2014 Exhibits (The Fabolous Litigation)

- Exhibit (a) A document showing Desert Storm and Kila Records as umbrella labels of Island Def Jam Records.
- 2. Exhibit (b) A document showing that "For The Love" was included in the Fabolous Soul Tape (2) CD
- 3. Exhibit (c) A document showing that "For The Love" was included in the Fabolous Soul Collection CD
- 4. Exhibit (d) A document showing that "For The Love" was included in the video titled "For The Love" which is presently being aired on YouTube.
- 5. Exhibit (e) A document from the Island Def Jam records website showing Fabolous, as an Island Def Jam recording artist.
- 6. Exhibit (f) a copy of the Copyright Registration listing plaintiff as writer
- 7. Exhibit (g) A copy of the original 45rpm recording of "Try To Leave Me" which the sample used in "For The Love" was taken from.
- 8. Exhibits (h)- h (a) and h (b) documents listing the "Soul Tape 2. CD As a free download.
- 9. Exhibits (I)- I (a) and I (b) documents listing the "Soul Tape 2. CD as being for sell.
- 10. Exhibit (j) A document confirming the amount of views and downloads were made.
- 11. Exhibit (k) and k (a) An email from Isidro validating that the "Clyde Otis Music Group attempted to resolve our concerns with Fabolous' attorney.

The IDJMG is one of four UMG umbrella labels in North America to market the works of primarily mainstream pop, rock, and urban performers—the other three being Interscope-Geffen-A&M, Capitol Music Group and Republic Records. In 2011, L.A. Reid stepped down as head of the company and was replaced by Weiss. On April 1, 2014, it was announced that Island Def Jam will no longer be running following the resigning of CEO Barry Weiss. In a press released released by Universal Music Group, the label will now be reorganizing Def Jam Recordings, Island Records and Motown Records all as separate entities. [7]

#### Awards and accolades

According to the 2012 radio airplay analysis of music industry service Mediabase, IDJMG became the number-one Rhythmic label with seven number one songs played on Rhythmic radio stations from Rihanna, Kanye West, Jay-Z, Ne-Yo, and Justin Bieber. [8]

#### Labels

#### \* Def Jam Recordings

- Artium Recordings
- Desert Storm Records
- Disturbing Tha Peace
- GOOD Music
- Radio Killa Records
- Roc-A-Fella Records

#### Island Records

- Tuff Gong
- 4th & B'way Records

#### Mercury Records

A&M Records UK<sup>[9][10]</sup>

#### References

- 1. A "Ethiopia Habtemariam Named Senior Vice President of Motown Records | Billboard" (http://www.billboard.biz/bbbiz/industry/record-labels/ethiopia-habtemariam-named-senior-vice-president-1005312132.story). Billboard.biz. 2011-08-10. Retrieved 2014-03-22.
- 2. ^[1] (http://www.abc12.com/story/15244252/universal-music-group-umg-promotes-ethiopia-habtemariam-to-senior-vice-president-of-motown-records?clienttype=printable)
- 3. ^ Sisario, Ben (2011-08-10). "A Young Music Executive Takes Over at Motown" (http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/10/a-young-music-executive-takes-over-at-motown/). The New York Times.

# The S.O.U.L. Tape 2

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The S.O.U.L. Tape 2 is the seventh mixtape by American rapper Fabolous, it was released on November 22, 2012.<sup>[1]</sup> The mixtape features guest appearances from Broadway, J. Cole, Pusha T, Troy Ave, Trey Songz, Cassie, Wale, Joe Budden and Teyana Taylor.<sup>[2]</sup>

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- 1 Background
- 2 Reception
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- 3 Track listing
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## Background

The mixtape was announced on October 22, 2012.<sup>[3]</sup> On November 7, 2012, the first song was released in promotion of the mixtape titled "For The Love".<sup>[4]</sup> On December 12, 2012, the music video for "For The Love" was released.<sup>[5]</sup> On December 30, 2012, the music video for "Life Is So Exciting" featuring Pusha T was released.<sup>[6]</sup> On March 3, 2013, the music video was released for "B.I.T.E.".<sup>[7]</sup> On April 22, 2013, the music video was released for "We Get High".<sup>[8]</sup> On July 30, 2013, the music video was released for "Guess Who's Bizzack" featuring Broadway.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Reception

#### Critical response

Ron Johnson of AllHipHop gave the mixtape seven and a half stars out of ten, saying "Fab s favorite hook supplier, Lil Mo, is surely missed on songs like Life Is So Exciting"

#### The S.O.U.L. Tape 2



Mixtape by Fabolous

Released November 22, 2012

Recorded 2012

Genre Hip hop

Label Desert Storm, Def Jam

Producer StreetRunner, Teddy Da Don, C-

Sick, Mally The Martian, The Arsenals, Sarah J, John Scino, Cardiak, AraabMuzik, Sonaro, Just

Blaze, J.Cole

#### Fabolous chronology

There Is No The S.O.U.L.
Competition 3: Tape 2
Death Comes (2012)
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(2011)

Professional ratings
Review scores

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#### \* The Soul Collection \* by Fabolous (CD, May-2013, Kila Records)



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#### Product description

#### Album Features

UPC:

803341389762

Artist Format: Fabricus

Release Year:

CD

Record Label Kila Records

2013

Genre:

R&B. Rap

Track Listing

- \* 1. For the Love
  - 2. Transformation

  - 4. Wolves in Sheep's Clothing (featuring Paul Cain)
  - 5. BITE
  - 6. Really Tho
  - 7. We Get High
  - 8. That's Not Love

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# Fabolous - For The Love [video] (The Soul Tape 2)

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#### **Subscription preferences**

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#### Published on Dec 12, 2012

Fabolous - For The Love [video] (The Soul Tape 2)
For the love music video by Fabolous off the Soul Tape 2 Mixtape

Fabolous - For The Love video Music video for fabolous For The Love

- Category
- License

Standard YouTube License

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This document shows that The Artist Fabolous is a Island Def Jam recording artist as it relates to The Video "For The Love" which includes plaintift Song "Try To Leave Me If You Can"

March 3, 2013

New Video: Fabolous B.I.T.E

Check out Fabolous' brand new music video for his track, "BLT E" off his latest mixtape, The S.O.U.L Tape 2.

classic to download Fabolous' "Ready" Ft. Chris Brown Available on iTunes now!

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COMMENTS ( 0 )

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Registration of a Claim to Copyright

Case 1:14-cv-02968-PAE-JCF Document 2 Filed 04722114 Page 16 of 26

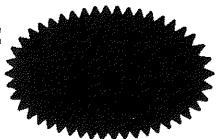
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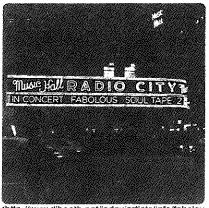
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(http://www.djbooth.net/index/artists/info/fabolou

Rap veteran **Fabolous** returns to the DJBooth once again on Thanksgiving day with a follow-up to last year's *The S.O.U.L. Tape*. On the appropriately-titled new mixtape *The S.O.U.L. Tape*. 2 the Brooklyn native is joined by guests J. Cole (http://www.djbooth.net/index/artists/info/j-cole) Joe Budden (http://www.djbooth.net/index/artists/info/joe-budden). Pusha T. (http://www.djbooth.net/index/artists/info/pusha-t). **Teyana Taylor Troy Ave**. Wale (http://www.djbooth.net/index/artists/info/wale) and more. Previously-featured tracks include the **StreetRunner**-produced "For The Love (http://www.djbooth.net/index/tracks/review/fabolous-for-the-love)."

While discussing the new tape. Fab explained "[it's] different from some of the other music that I normally do or put out through my other releases. We kept the vibe and the music kind of soulful sample-influenced. This one I think I have a little bit more..."

Fabolous plans to release his sixth studio album. Loso's Way 2: Rise to Power is sometime in early 2013.

Fans can also check out Fabolous's previous albums: Fabolous - Loso's Way (/index/albums/review/fabolous-losos-way-07290902) | Fabolous - From Nothin' to Somethin' (/index/albums/review/fabolous-from-nothin-to-somethin-0618071)

#### Stream The Soul Tape 2



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- 05. Diamonds [prod. Mally The Martian Hype] (JavaScript:void(0);)
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- 07. Louis Vuitton (ft. J. Cole) (Java Script:void(0);)
- 08. Life is So Exciting (ft. Pusha T) [prod. The Arsenals and Sarah J] (Java Script:void(0
- Only Life I Know (ft. Troy Ave) [prod. John Scino] (Java Script:void(0);)
- 10. Diced Pineapples (ft. Trey Songz and Cassie) [prod. Cardiak] (Java Script:void(0);)
- 11. Beauty (ft. Wale) [prod. AraabMuzik] (JavaScript:void(0);)
- 12. Want You Back (ft. Joe Budden and Teyana Taylor) [prod. Sonaro] (JavaScript:void

#### Featured Songs From This Album

#### Fabolous - B.I.T.E.

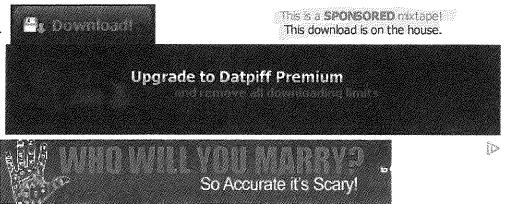
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New mixtage from Fatiolous the 2nd installment into his "Soul Tape" series. Features include J.Colle, Wale, Pusha T, Troy Ave, Trey Songz, Cassie. Broadway, Joe Sudden, Broadway & Teyena Teyor. Happy Thanks grang!

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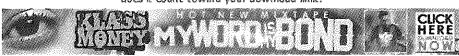
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#### » Soul Tape, Vol. 2 album Product Description

Soul Tape, Vol. 2 album by Fabolous was released Mar 05, 2013 on the BE <u>Music Group</u> label. Soul Tape, Vol. 2 CD music contains a single disc with 12 songs.

#### Fabolous - Soul Tape, Vol. 2 Album Track Listing

1 Transformation

2 For the Love

3 B.T.T.F.

Additional Track Information Soul Tage, Vol. 2 album

- á We Get High (St. Elmo's Fire)
- 5 Diamonds See All 10 Links

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1 Personnel Trey Songz, Wale, Pusha T, J. Cole, Cassie, Joe Budden, Broadway, Teyana

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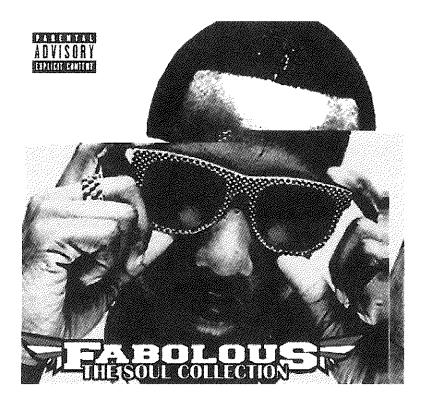
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#### The Clyde Otis Music Group P.O. Box 325 Englewood, NJ 07631 (845) 425-8198 Fax: (845) 425-3827

March 24, 2014

Def Jam Records
Universal Music Group
Attn: Ian Allen
Email: ian.allen@umusic.com

RE: "Try To Leave Me If You Can" as sampled in Fabolous "For the Love" from The Fabolous Soul Tape 2 (Def Jam, November 22, 2012)

Dear Ian:

It has come to our attention that Mr. Herman Kelley's 1974 Composition "Try To Leave Me If You Can" (by artist Bessie Banks) has been sampled in Fabolous' new song "For The Love." The Clyde Otis Music Group/Argon Records also controls the Master Recording.

Please see the links below to both the new song and the sampled song.

New Song: "For the Love" (John David Jackson p/k/a Fabolous, Nicholas Warwar)
Samples: "Try To Leave Me If You Can" (Bessie Banks, Frankie Green, Herman Kelley)

Sampled Master Recording: Stax Records/Argon Records

Artist: Fabolous

Release Date: November 2, 2012 Album: The Fabolous Soul Tape 2

Label: Def Jam Track: #2 Timing: 2:57

New Song:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfQSqsQp2GI

Sampled Song:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUGDLSDoujQ

We are requesting a non-recoupable fee for the use of the Master Recording. We are happy to work out something appropriate for both parties.

#### Please review the request and respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards, Deborah Evans

For Isidro Otis
The Clyde Otis Music Group, Inc.

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